

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:PFMORRIS:VV

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NSC:MR. LOW

ARA/CEN (INFO)

S/S:MR. ORTIZ

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R 291652Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

XMT AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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FOL SENT ACTION TO PANAMA INFO SAN JOSE JUL 24, 1975 FROM SECSTATE

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 174422

SAN JOSE FOR OAS DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT FORD LETTER RE SNYDER AMENDMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER SENT BY PRESIDENT FORD  
TO SENATOR MCCLELLAN RE SNYDER AMENDMENT.  
SIMILAR LETTER SENT TO SENATOR SPARKMAN.

2. QUOTE: DEAR JOHN: I AM WRITING WITH REGARD TO AN  
AMENDMENT WHICH WAS PASSED IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TO H.R. 8121. THE INTENTION OF THIS AMENDMENT WAS TO  
SUSPEND OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH PANAMA BY PROHIBITING THE  
USE OF STATE DEPARTMENT FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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AS YOU KNOW, DURING THE LAST THREE ADMINISTRATIONS, THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN A DISCUSSION WITH THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA RELATING TO THE CANAL. THE NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH HAVE RECEIVED THE SUPPORT OF EACH ADMINISTRATION IN TURN, ARE CONTINUING, WITH THE GOAL OF REACHING AN AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD ACCOMMODATE THE NEEDS OF BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND PANAMA, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PROTECTING OUR BASIC INTERESTS IN DEFENSE AND OPERATION OF THE CANAL. PANAMA HAS ENGAGED IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE UNITED STATES IS OPERATING IN GOOD FAITH AND THAT ANY AGREEMENT REACHED WOULD BE CONSIDERED ON ITS MERITS ACCORDING TO OUR FULL

CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS. SUSPENSION OF THESE DISCUSSIONS NOW, WITHOUT FULL CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT, COULD SERIOUSLY DAMAGE OUR RELATIONS WITH PANAMA AND OUR INTERESTS THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA.

THE PROVISION ALSO RAISES A CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION RELATED TO THE TREATY-MAKING PROCESS UNDER WHICH THE PRESIDENT IS AUTHORIZED TO NEGOTIATE WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND THE SENATE TO GIVE ITS ADVICE AND CONSENT TO ANY TREATY.

OUR NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT YET COMPLETED AND A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS REMAIN UNRESOLVED.

HAVE NO INTENTION OF PROPOSING TO CONGRESS ANY AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD NOT PROTECT U.S. VITAL INTERESTS. WE WILL CONSULT WITH THE CONGRESS AS THE NEGOTIATIONS PROCEED AND OF COURSE SUBMIT ANY TREATY TO THE FULL CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS, WHICH MEANS THAT THE SENATE WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW IT UNDER THE ADVICE AND CONSENT PROCEDURES. IT IS MY HOPE THAT YOU AND THE MEMBERS OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE WILL SUPPORT ME IN SEEING THAT THIS PROVISION IS REMOVED FROM H.R. 8121. SINCERELY,  
GERALD R. FORD. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**TAGS:** n/a  
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